Roland

AX-7

MIDI KEYBOARD CONTROLLER

TurboStart

It's a Fact...

The AX-7 is a versatile 45-note portable keyboard controller that combines user-friendly operation with a host of realtime controllers. Features include:

- Stage-oriented shoulder keyboard in attractive pearl white body
- 45-note velocity-sensitive keyboard—perfect for solos and bass lines
- Intuitive operation via new 7-segment LED display
- 5 realtime controllers: DATA ENTRY knob, TOUCH CONTROLLER, EXPRESSION BAR, HOLD button and light-sensing D Beam
- 2 MIDI zones for independent control of Upper and Lower parts
- GM2/GS-compatible
- Battery- or AC-powered

Selecting Patches

The AX-7 has 128 patches in two banks, A11-88 and B11-88. These store controller and zone settings —MIDI channels, program changes, etc.—for quick recall. Use the following procedure to connect the AX-7 to a sound module and select patches:

1. Use a MIDI cable to connect the MIDI OUT of the AX-7 to the MIDI IN of a sound module.
2. Press the A/B button to select the desired bank and use the PATCH buttons to select Patches 11-88. (The patch numbers are labeled above the buttons.) For instance, to select Patch #15, press 1 followed by 5.

***Note**: You can use the PATCH DOWN/UP buttons on the neck to step through the patches sequentially.*

Selecting Tones with Program Change Messages

Use the following procedure to select a sound in a MIDI sound module from the AX-7:

1. Press the PRG CHG button so it's lit. While the display is flashing, use the DOWN and UP buttons to select Pc.
2. Press the KEYBOARD MODE LOWER or UPPER button to select the desired zone.
3. Use the buttons numbered 0-9, followed by ENTER, to select the desired program change number. For example, to select 114, press 1, 1 and 4, followed by ENTER.

***Note**: The AX-7 defaults to General MIDI settings, so if you have a GM-compatible sound module, the AX-7 will select its GM sounds without any special setup.*

Transposing the Keyboard

You can raise or lower the pitch of your playing without having to change your keyboard performance. When you "transpose," each key on the keyboard from the F# below to the F above the Middle C key represents one semitone step of transposition. The Middle C key leaves the A-37s pitch unchanged. Here's how to transpose.

1. Hold down TRANSPOSE so it blinks, and then press the key that's the desired number of semitone steps below or above the Middle C key.
2. Release the TRANSPOSE button.
3. To turn off transposition, press TRANSPOSE again so it's not lit.

Setting Up a Layer or a Split

Use the following procedure to set up a layer or split on the AX-7:

1. Select Patch A-11. The KEYBOARD MODE UPPER button lights and a Program Change 001 message is transmitted on MIDI Channel 1. If you're using a General MIDI compatible sound module, this selects a piano sound.
2. Press the KEYBOARD MODE LOWER button and the A-37 plays a GM pad sound on MIDI Channel 2.
3. You're now ready to create a split or layer. To:

- *create a layer*—press UPPER and LOWER simultaneously. Both buttons light.
- *split the keyboard*—press SPLIT button so it's lit. The keyboard is split at Middle C.

Changing the Split Point

Use the following procedure to change the split point:

1. Hold down the SPLIT button.
2. When the SPLIT button begins to blink, press the key at which you want the split point. (C4 is default split point.)
   The display shows the split point you've selected for as long as you hold down the SPLIT button.

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Assigning the D Beam Controller

The D Beam Controller can be assigned to play arpeggios, chords, single notes, or various MIDI controller change messages. Use the following procedure to set up the D Beam Controller:

1. Press CONTROL so it's lit. As the display is flashing, use the DOWN and UP buttons to select dbn.
2. Press KEYBOARD MODE LOWER and/or UPPER to select the zone(s) you wish to control.
3. Use the DOWN and UP buttons to select the desired setting. Choices include:
   - *Ar1, Ar2, Ar3*—Arpeggiator, set to 1, 2 or 3 octaves
   - *Crd*—D Beam plays a chord
   - *ntE*—D Beam plays a note
   - *11u/11d*—Expression, useful for fading sounds in or out
   - *16u/16d-19u/19d, 71u/71d-78u/78d*—Assigns D Beam to Control Change Numbers 16-19 or 71-78

***Note**: For each controller, there's a "u" version and a "d" version. With the "u" version, the controller's value increases as you move your hand towards the D Beam. With the "d" version, the controller's value decreases as you move your hand closer to the D Beam.*

4. Press CONTROL so it's not lit when you've finished making your selection.
5. Press the D Beam ON/OFF button so it's lit, and move your hand over the D Beam to trigger the effect you've selected.

***Note**: The D Beam settings are saved as part of a patch, so don't forget to write your current settings as a patch to memory if you want to save them. See below.*

Assigning Notes to the D Beam Controller

When you've chosen the Ar (arpeggio) or Crd (chord) option for the D Beam, use the following procedure to set up the notes you want the D Beam to trigger:

1. Assign Ar1, Ar2, Ar3, or Crd to the D Beam, as described in the previous section.
2. Select Split or Layer mode.
3. Press D BEAM ON/OFF so its indicator's lit.
4. While holding the desired notes on the keyboard, press the SUSTAIN button on the bottom of the neck, and then release the notes and the SUSTAIN button.
5. Move your hand over the D Beam—the notes you selected are played as an arpeggio or a chord, depending on the D Beam mode you've chosen.

***Note**: When the D Beam is set to Ar1-3 or Crd, you cannot trigger notes from the A-37 keyboard when the D BEAM ON/OFF indicator is lit. See Page 13 in the* Owner's Manual *for more information.*

Writing Patches

You must save any changes you make if you wish to use them again in the future. Use the following procedure to save your current settings as a Patch:

1. Hold down the WRITE button until the display begins to blink.
2. Continue to hold down the WRITE button and use the A/B button, the 1-8 buttons, and ENTER to select the desired location. For example, to select location b85, press A/B repeatedly until the display shows "b--." Then press 8 and 5, followed by ENTER.